

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US05/05744

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC: G01V 3/00(2006.01)

USPC: 324/318,309

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
U.S. : 324/318, 309, 308, 307, 306, 310-317, 319-322

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
WEST 2.3, JPAB, EPAB, DWPI, TDBD, USPT, USOC, PGPB

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|---------------|--|---|
| X --- A | US 5,664,568 A (SRINIVASAN et al) 9 September 1997 (09.09.1997), See entire reference. | 1-29 and 31-71 ----- 30 |
| X --- A | US 5,602,479 A (SRINIVASAN et al) 11 February 1997 (11.02.1997), See entire reference. | 21, 29, 30 ----- 1-20, 22-28, 31-71 |

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☐ See patent family annex.

Special categories of cited documents:

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
- "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search
22 April 2006 (22.04.2006)

Date of mailing of the international search report

25 MAY 2006

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Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:
Please See Continuation Sheet

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fees.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☒ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.: 1-71.

- Remark on Protest
- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees. |

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BOX III. OBSERVATIONS WHERE UNITY OF INVENTION IS LACKING

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. In order for all inventions to be examined, the appropriate additional examination fees must be paid.

Group 1, claims 1-71, drawn to A neurovascular array for use with a magnetic resonance (MR) system capable of parallel imaging.

Group 2, claims 72-78, drawn to an interface for coupling a coil array to a parallel-imaging compatible magnetic resonance (MR) system.

Group 3, claims 79, 80, drawn to a housing for a neurovascular array for use with a magnetic resonance system.

The inventions listed as **Groups 1-3** do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: Group 1 is drawn to the structure of the actual neurovascular array; Group 2 is drawn specifically to the coupling interface with the various electrical ports for operating the device; and group 3 is drawn to the housing that encloses the neurovascular array and not the specifics of the neurovascular array itself.